



## *The Trojan Battalion's Commitment to Developing Tomorrow's Leaders*

by MIDN 1/C William Durban

Over the past year, the Trojan Battalion has focused on supporting our younger counterparts: the JROTC cadets, in their leadership development. Many of these cadets will soon step into our roles, becoming emerging leaders in both the military and society. Our aim is to offer effective mentorship to help them realize their leadership potential.

Last fall, Midshipmen volunteered as reading mentors at North Valley Military Institute, a local JROTC charter school. Our Midshipmen dedicated themselves to helping these cadets enhance their reading skills, while also serving as personal mentors for middle and high school students. Much of our interaction centered around discussing our college experiences and future careers in naval service. Our goal is to inspire these young individuals and encourage them to set ambitious long-term goals. During the 2022-2023 school year, our program expanded from 3 volunteers to over 10, collectively logging more than 200 hours. Unfortunately, North Valley Military Institute lost their charter for the 2023-2024 school year, so our mentorship program is temporarily on hold as we search for a new host.

This past spring, the USC NROTC Trojan Battalion introduced the inaugural NJROTC Leadership Symposium titled "The Rising Leaders Forum." The event attracted over 70 cadets from 10 high schools. Our sessions educated the cadets about self-mastery and leadership rooted in stoic principles. Additionally, we delved into early career preparedness, emphasizing the importance of self-presentation and recognizing opportunities. These theoretical lessons were complemented by hands-on small group leadership exercises, enabling cadets to apply their newfound knowledge in engaging and novel ways. Organizing this event required the dedication of more than half our battalion and several months of preparation, but the outcome was a rewarding educational experience for everyone.

### Calendar of Events

8 FEB 2024  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Location JFTB Los Alamitos  
or via Zoom

7 MAR 2024  
Board of Directors Meeting  
USC Campus

7 MAR 2024  
Alumni League Happy Hour  
and Basketball Game  
(USC-ASU)  
1800, meeting place TBD

10-11 MAY 2024  
USC Graduation and  
Commissioning  
USC Campus

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# FROM THE BRIDGE

**Jim Hull (Class of 1982)**

**Col, USMCR (Ret)**

**President – USC NROTC Alumni League**

On October 5th, the League Board held its Fall meeting on the USC campus., League directors were introduced to a small arms training program initiated by the Unit involving both simulator and live fire exercises. After a briefing by Col Gil Juarez, three Board members were given a hands-on demonstration of the Lane Trainer Pro shooting simulator system in an upstairs classroom of the P.E. building. The system allows a classroom to be set up as a small-arms shooting range using Smokeless Range 2.0 software, a computerized projection system and replicas of the M4 service rifle and M18 USN / USMC service pistol. Programmed scenarios allow timed shooting events with a variety of targets and shooting distances to develop the user's basic and advanced shooting skills. I was impressed with the quality of the system when I viewed several midshipmen participating in the training event.

On 11 November, the League funded a live fire training exercise at the LAX Firing Range as part of the development of the small arms training program. Planned and executed by the midshipmen, 32 members of the battalion, along with two staff officers, received instruction from the LAX Firing Range staff and then fired a variety of handguns. Each midshipman was allocated 50 rounds for the event. A few midshipmen received instruction on the AR-15. The cost of the event was \$1,760, which included range rental, ammunition, instruction and the rental of 14 firearms.

I look forward to seeing how this program/initiative progresses, especially in the area of competitive shooting. BNCO MIDN 1/C Will Durban discussed establishing a rifle/pistol team for competition with a similar team from UCLA. Supporting a portion of the expenses for a small team of competitive shooters is an area where I would like to direct some of our available funds. If there are any alumni in the Southern California area with competitive shooting experience who may offer insight and experience to this program, please contact me.



The League's Executive Committee met in August at the Los Alamitos Joint Reserve Base for the first time after being displaced from the recently closed USC Orange County Campus in Irvine. Two Exec Committee members were able to join the meeting by Zoom, including the League's Director of Finance, Bob Bennett '79, joining from his home in North Carolina. For our main spring and fall board meetings on the USC campus, an upgraded projection system allows effective Zoom participation from around the country for several of our members who can't attend in person. We've introduced Constant Contact e-mail flyers to publicize short notice events and pass other information to League members supplementing our bi-annual publication of the Log.

The midshipman battalion is 84 strong. Service assignments recently announced for 20 of our future Navy Ensigns include six to the submarine community, eight to surface warfare (two nuclear power) and six assignments to Naval Air Training Command (one Naval Flight Officer). An interesting addition to service community selection pertains to one of our future SWO (nuclear power) selectees, MIDN 1/C Karl Kammereck, who also received an option to later apply to the Navy Special Warfare (SEAL) community under a recently established SpecWar accession program.

In addition to the development of a small arms training program, USC midshipmen are executing training events in the areas of celestial navigation, first aid and survival swimming. Midshipmen responsibility for these programs is designed to foster small unit training and leadership development, all under the supervision of the NROTC staff.

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## COMMANDING OFFICER'S UPDATE

**Col G. D. Juarez, USMC**  
**Commanding Officer & Professor of Naval Science**  
**University of Southern California**

Greetings League, we are happy to be back and sprinting out of the academic year starting blocks. Last year's recruiting efforts produced some impressive students joining the Trojan Battalion: 20 national scholarship 4/C MIDN; 1 Seaman-to-Admiral (STA-21) Officer Candidate - Special Warfare Operator First Class Richmond, a prior infantry Marine; and 1 Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) student - Staff Sergeant Coraccio. They are an impressive group and we are lucky to have them. You can see our total breakdown below.

	Navy			Marine			Total		
Year	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
4/C	11	3	14	5	1	6	16	4	20
3/C	9	3	12	1	0	1	10	3	13
2/C	10	1	11	2	0	2	12	1	13
1/C	16	6	22	7	1	8	23	7	30
5th Yr.	2	0	2	1	0	1	3	0	3
AD	1	1	2	2	1	3	3	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>84</b>

As excited as I am, it is also a bittersweet start of my last year, and I again want to extend my thanks to each of you for the continued support of our students and staff. We are also likely to lose LT Perez, LT Tribolet, and Capt Gabel this year. CDR Ragadio, LT Galli, LT Peri, and GySgt Taylor will stay in place to continue the fight of making great officers. Besides the active-duty staff our top notch 1/C MIDN are making a significant impact and creating a phenomenal legacy. They have immersed themselves in the accomplishment of our 1/C Theme: Leading organizations; Lead by example; Charge of command; Command climate; Warfighter; Giving & receiving feedback. MIDN 1/C Durban – BNCO, MIDN 1/C Addington – BN XO, MIDN 2/C Herrington- CMC, MIDN 1/C Cao, Harrison, and Katzman have done an admirable job bringing our practical skills focused Command and Leadership Training program to life. Not only are the students doing the traditional drill, ceremonial, and color guard events, they are training themselves in Celestial Navigation, First Aid, Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection, Stretcher Bearing, and Damage Control. You will also be happy to know that our students are now represented as a student government organization under the Joint Assembly Military Students, a combined ROTC and Veteran organization that now gets a say and a vote in student government.

As we move forward into a demanding geo-political landscape filled with great advances in technology, I feel as confident as ever we are helping develop the leaders of the next greatest generation - our current NROTC students.

*Forever Grateful,*  
*G. D. Juarez*

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\* \* \* Bulletin Board \*\* **BULLETIN BOARD** \*\* Bulletin Board \* \* \*

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***How to Contact Us:***

**USC Naval ROTC Alumni League  
Department of Naval Science  
University of Southern California  
3560 Watt Way, PED Room 101  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0654**

*NROTC Office Phone Number: (213) 740-2663*

**[uscnotcalumni@gmail.com](mailto:uscnotcalumni@gmail.com)**

Our NROTC Alumni League members are scattered all over the world and it is always fun trying to keep up with all your moves and changes. One way that we can keep up, is for you to complete the "Update My Information" section of the Return Slip of The LOG when you send in your tax-deductible dues and contributions. We don't want you to become LOST...

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**Don't FORGET!! 2023 Membership Dues are due NOW!**

Please complete the form on the back page, write your **tax-deductible** check and send it to the Treasurer, Ed Tannenbaum, using the self-addressed envelope or to the NROTC Unit - Attention: Alumni League, at the address listed under "How to Contact Us"

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**Board of Director's Meetings**

All NROTC Alumni League Members are invited to attend the Spring and Fall Board Meetings as non-voting attendees. Reservations can be made with Jim Hull: Cell (310) 902-3860 or hulljamesc@gmail. The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7th on the USC Campus or via Zoom.

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**NROTC Alumni Scholarship Endowment**

As of 31 July 2023, the balance in the NROTC Scholarship Endowment was over \$280,000. We awarded \$10,000 from the spendable account for Fall 2023 and Spring 2023 scholarships. If there are any questions regarding the Scholarship Endowment and our scholarship program, please contact Jerry Vieau '68 at jerryvieau@yahoo.com

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**From the Ship's Store**

**Trojan Battalion Items:** USC NROTC Polo Shirts -\$40, and USC NROTC Challenge Coins - \$10 each. To Order: Contact NROTC Office listed above -"How to Contact Us".

**Alumni League Items:** Tote Bag - \$20, Alumni League Challenge Coins - \$10, Bottle Openers (made from 50 Caliber Bullets) - \$42. To Order, email: *All proceeds go toward the support of the Trojan Battalion*

**2023 NROTC ALUMNI LEAGUE OFFICERS***continued from page 2***PRESIDENT***Col Jim Hull, USMCR (Ret), '82***SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/SPECIAL EVENTS***CAPT Bob Brockmeier, USN (Ret), '63***VICE PRESIDENTS:****COMMUNICATIONS//THE LOG EDITOR***LtCol Frances Shannon Annarella, USMCR (Ret), '81***FINANCE***CDR Bob Bennett USN (Ret) '79***MEMBERSHIP***Bruce Nelson '76**Col Don Davis, USMC (Ret) '71***ADVANCEMENT***Tom Offutt '74***SOCIAL MEDIA***CDR Lee Pasaraba USN (Ret), '93***SCHOLARSHIP & ENDOWMENTS***Jerry Vieau '68***SECRETARY***CDR Maureen "Alex" Alexander Wright, USN (Ret) '81***TREASURER***Ed Tannenbaum '62***PRESIDENT EMERITUS***CAPT Paul Alwine,, USN (Ret) '62*

*Current Opening: History & Heritage. If interested in this position, please contact Jim Hull ([hulljamesc@gmail.com](mailto:hulljamesc@gmail.com))*



**THE LOG** is a semi-annual publication of the USC NROTC Alumni League. The USC NROTC Alumni League is a non-profit service organization committed to promote, support, and strengthen ongoing ties among NROTC alumni, the Midshipmen of the Trojan Battalion, U.S. Naval Forces, and the University of Southern California. All Navy and Marine Corps alumni of the USC NROTC program (currently over 2,000 officers) are automatically members of the Alumni League upon commissioning.

*Send comments to:*

*Frances Annarella '81*

e-mail: [nrotc.log.editor@gmail.com](mailto:nrotc.log.editor@gmail.com)

mail: See address under Bulletin Board

**"How to Contact Us"**

Our website: <http://uscrotc.org>

# From the Bridge

The League's Glider Flight Program is entering its 6th year on firm financial footing thanks to big 2023 donations from Ed Tannenbaum '62 and former F-18 pilot Mike Frische '86. Participants for the 2023 – 2024 academic year are MIDN 1/C Anne Whelan, MIDN 1/C Mary-Grace Foster, MIDN 2/C Tom Salva and MIDN 2/C Ben Neill. All will be participating in the two-day flight introductory course at Mountain Valley Airport in Tehachapi, CA.

On Thursday 30 November, Scholarship committee chairman Jerry Vieau '68 attended an early morning ProLab on campus for a presentation to this semester's Alumni League Scholarship awardees. See page 12 of this edition of The Log for more information on the winners of the fall scholarships. I appreciate Jerry's early morning drive from Orange County to attend the 0745 event and represent the League membership!

The Alumni League welcomes two new members to its board of directors. **Tom Offutt '74** is a former Navy SWO who, in addition to 13 years of active and reserve service (3 frigate deployments), spent 40 years in Silicon Valley at high tech companies including Hewlett-Packard, Electronics for Imaging and Wyse Technology. He specialized in worldwide marketing, sales and product development. Tom is recently retired and living east of San Francisco. He makes frequent visits to SoCal to visit his grandchildren and looks forward to getting back to campus via League meetings. **Don Davis '71** is a former USMC EA-6 / RF-4 back seater who was winged in late 1972. He was based on the east coast and in Japan aboard the U.S.S. Midway. Later selected to the USMC JAG program, Don graduated once again from USC in 1979 with a law degree. He served 22 years as a USMC JAG, graduated from the Naval War College and served earlier as a USMC squadron commander. Don's wife, Julie, is a professor at USC's Rossier School of Education. They reside in West Los Angeles.

We'll keep you posted on upcoming 2024 Alumni League events! Thank you for your donations and continued support of USC NROTC midshipmen. Contact me at (310) 902-3860 or [hulljamesc@gmail.com](mailto:hulljamesc@gmail.com) to discuss any League related item.

## *Fight On!*

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## *Trojan Battalion Developing Future Leaders*

This semester, the battalion is emphasizing the advantages of higher education and the benefits of the NROTC scholarship. We've reached out to JROTC programs throughout the southwest and are currently hosting and scheduling presentations at our unit. Looking ahead, we aim to broaden this initiative, visiting JROTC units to further assist them in guiding potential applicants through the college and NROTC application processes.

This spring, our unit is gearing up for the second annual JROTC symposium scheduled for February 24th. With the insights gained from our previous event, we are confident this will be another outstanding occasion.



*First Annual JROTC Symposium Spring 2023*

*Note: The author, MIDN 1/C Will Durban is the Fall Semester Battalion Commander. He is a Navy Option working on his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering AND his Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering.*

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### **Jim Hull - Newest Admiral of the League**

At the Fall Board Meeting on 5 October, Our new President, Col Jim Hull '82 was surprised to be "commissioned as an Admiral of the League." This award was in recognition of Jim's many years of service to the league: as the VP of Finance, he was able to make sense of the USC accounting system and figure out how our donations were being managed. Jim was also instrumental in creating the League's Glider Flight Program and still spends many hours working with the MIDNs participating in the Glider Program.

*Congratulations Jim! Thank you for your continued service!*

## ***Midshipman 3/C Pierre S. Briand places THIRD in the Chief of Naval Operations Naval History Essay Contest***

The CNO's Naval History Essay Contest was started in 2017 to further understand lessons from history. For this year's contest, 117 essays were submitted in the following 3 categories— 67 in the Rising Historian category, 13 in the Professional category, and 37 in the Midshipmen/Cadet Historian category. Our MIDN Briand took 3rd place in the Midshipmen/Cadet Historian category with his essay "*Rivalry and Confusion at Leyte: Lessons for Sea Control in the Pacific*." For more information on regarding the essay contest, go to:

<https://www.usni.org/essay-contests/cno-naval-history-essay-contest>

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### ***Rivalry and Confusion at Leyte: Lessons for Sea Control in the Pacific***

*by MIDN 3/C Pierre Briand*

The entire ship shuddered as a Japanese shell entered the after fire room, severing boiler lines and releasing superheated steam into the compartment. Those not instantly flayed remained trapped under a blanket of scalding steam that rose to the top of the compartment and obstructed the escape of the surviving crew. One man of seventeen, made it topside alive. In the same instant, another shell punched through to the engine room sending an updraft of hot steam topside into the turret of Gun 53, engulfing its entire crew. Dead sailors, saturated in blood and seawater, crowded the decks as men piled out of the steel confines of their beloved ship, screaming in violent agony, either blistered by steam or scorched by fire and flash. The Hoel, engaged in a fierce shoot out with Japanese heavy cruisers and battleships off the island of Samar, did not enjoy the company and support of U.S. Navy cruisers, battleships, and fleet carriers that should have been there to take up the fight. What the Hoel, as well as the other ships of Taffy 3, endured offered a candid testament to the costly events that can transpire under disjointed command. Now, more than ever, unified command is necessary to establish non-conflicting, over arching objectives for subordinate commands to employ their capabilities in a decentralized fashion and facilitate effective joint service coordination in a distributed maritime environment.

After their carriers had been "de toothed as offensive weapons" during the Battle of the Philippine Sea, the Imperial Japanese Navy had to rely on its large-gun capital ship force to deflect an American invasion of the Philippines. To accomplish this, the Japanese high command devised the Sho-1 plan. It consisted of three main Japanese fleets: the Southern Force commanded by Admiral Shoji Nishimura, the Central Force commanded by Vice Admiral Takeo Kurita, and the Northern Force commanded by Admiral Jisaburo Ozawa. In theory, the Northern Force would bait Admiral Halsey and his carriers, Task Force 38, into pursuing them Northward while the Southern and Central Forces spearheaded through the Surigao and San Bernardino straits, respectively, in order pincer the American fleet and compromise MacArthur's invasion force. The Japanese had high hopes for this plan, however, it "relied on the optimistic notion that Japan could fight a complex sequences of battles on its precise timetable...". While Ozawa's force successfully diverted Halsey's attention away from the Japanese center of gravity, the plan failed to incorporate a critical component that would be necessary for success: air cover. The remnants of Japan's naval air assets were with the Northern force. In order to achieve at least somewhat effective air support for their forces, Nishimura and Kurita had to rely on Land-based army aircraft. Long-standing rivalry between the Imperial Japanese Army and its Navy as well as a lack of inter service command, hindered their ability to coordinate any substantial air support for the Southern and Central forces. After elements of Vice Adm. Thomas C. Kinkaid's Seventh fleet obliterated the Southern Force, the Central Force proceeded through the San Bernadino strait blind, with no air cover. This lack of cover effectively trivialized the large guns of Japan's heavy cruisers and battleships, and the 18.1-inch guns of its super battleships Yamato and Musashi, against an entire invasion force.

While the Battle of Leyte Gulf proved a decisive victory for the United States Navy and the Allies, a significant instance of confusion between the two USN fleet commanders nearly cost the entire battle. The Invasion of Leyte marked the convergence of the two primary offensives in the Pacific: The Central Pacific offensive commanded by

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## ***Rivalry and Confusion at Leyte***

Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz and the Southern Pacific offensive commanded by Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Despite this convergence of forces, the two fleets that conducted and supported this assault, Seventh fleet commanded by Vice Adm. Thomas C. Kinkaid and Third fleet commanded by Adm. William F. Halsey Jr., remained under the authority of their separate offensive commands. Seventh fleet fell under the command of MacArthur, whereas Third fleet fell under the command of Nimitz. In the pre-invasion plans, Seventh fleet would carry out the assault as well as provide close protection and fire support for the landing force. Seventh fleet's destroyers and PT craft would patrol for Japanese submarines, while its cruisers and battleships bombarded Japanese shore defenses and its carrier-based aircraft provided air cover for the landing force. Third fleet, on the other hand, would support the invasion force by targeting Japanese airfields in the area and defending against any Japanese naval forces. The invasion's un-unified command led to miscommunication that generated nearly catastrophic results. MacArthur intended for Third fleet to provide critical air cover for his vulnerable transports, prescribing that, "The basic plan for this operation...was predicated upon full support by the Third Fleet...consider your [Halsey] mission to cover this operation is essential and paramount." Halsey adhered to Nimitz's original orders, charging Third fleet to "cover and support the Southwest Pacific Forces" and to "Destroy enemy naval and air forces in, or threatening, the Philippines area". Nimitz later supplemented these orders with an

additional directive stating, "In case opportunity for destruction of major portion of the enemy fleet is offered or can be created, such destruction becomes the primary task." MacArthur and Nimitz failed to establish a non-conflicting intent for their naval forces. Ultimately, Kinkaid assumed that Third fleet's Task Force 34, fast battleships, guarded the San Bernardino strait, whilst Halsey assumed that Seventh fleet oversaw that area, when he acted on Nimitz's orders. This disorganization left the strait nearly undefended as the Japanese Center Force steamed through, with one escort carrier task group standing in between the Japanese and the invasion force.

The outcome of a conflict in today's Pacific will be gauged by the nation that can maintain control of the seas and deny their enemy that critical advantage. In the face of China's highly capable missile technology and the immense strides that have been made in detection and targeting systems, the concentration of forces and naval assets will not necessarily be a viable naval tactic in a modern conflict. The Distributed Maritime Operations (DMO) strategy, which has been developed by the Navy in recent years, will govern the way in which a predominately maritime conflict will be fought. Instead of the concentration of forces, DMO calls for the dispersion of naval assets across a conflicted region. While effectively minimizing the detectability of friendly naval assets, this strategy will promote "distributed lethality", whereby dispersed forces can produce more axes of attack against enemy combatants. This, combined with various upgrades intended to "up gun" and boost the defensive and offensive capabilities of ships, will allow the USN and its allies to exert firmer authority across larger expanses.

In a conflict with an advanced adversary, such as China, history has underscored the importance of unambiguous objectives for subordinates to properly effectuate the sound, decentralized execution of those objectives. Despite the U.S. victory at the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the separation of command during the Leyte Invasion accounted for a major flaw on the part of the U.S. military. The unconsolidated upper-level command structure, the two Pacific offensive commands, generated immense confusion and near catastrophe. MacArthur and Nimitz had overlapping, yet conflicting objectives for their respective naval assets. This discrepancy in intended objectives likely factored into Halsey's decision to pursue Ozawa; fundamentally, Halsey could not accurately assess where his fleet would be most effectively utilized because he had been provided with two conflicting objectives. Today, Chinese defense rhetoric has suggested that China will utilize the space and cyber domains to impede U.S. military communications. The People's Republic of China and its military "routinely train to conduct jamming and anti-jamming operations against multiple communication...satellite systems in force-on-force exercises." In an age where a potential adversary may partially or perhaps completely disable communications, the necessity of clear standing objectives demands the utmost attention. What if connections between a CO and higher authorities experiences interruptions or a severance? What do they do? Where do they go? What mission do they default to? Unified overall objectives will allow naval assets to continue pursuing a campaign when faced with interruptions in connectivity and communication. If dispersed



assets operate independently under conflicting objectives, the entire force will be unable to act as one powerful, consolidated force. In such a case, mass deviations from intended missions will be difficult to correct which could prove disastrous for an entire campaign. Decentralized execution of centralized, over arching plans or mission command enable unity of effort over complex operations. Exercising their own discretion as an extension of clear objectives will be critical for dispersed forces to react and make timely decisions that will allow continued sea control in the event of sudden adverse conditions, such as disruptions in communication. At Leyte, had Third fleet been provided with clear, non-conflicting objectives, Third and Seventh fleets would have likely been positioned in such a way that would have rendered Admiral Kurita's push through the San Bernadino strait a non-threat to the American invasion force. Without a unified command to establish these clear objectives, modern forces become subject to the same miscoordination that afflicted Seventh and Third Fleets at Leyte nearly eighty years ago.

Within the larger joint service context, traditionally, the Marine Corps' conjunct operations with the Navy have been "sustained operations ashore in support of a traditional naval campaign"; however, the Marine Corps has been enhancing its assets and doctrine in order to better support its Navy partners by augmenting their sea control and denial capabilities. The Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations (EABO) strategy will allow the Marine Corps to deploy smaller, highly mobile and independent littoral units into contested maritime areas that will extend the Navy's sea denial authority. Equipped with

advanced mobile sensors and weapons, such as the Navy-Marine Corps Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System (NMESIS) anti-ship missile system, these units will establish a powerful, forward presence and have the capability to severely hinder or restrict enemy control while mitigating the effectiveness of adversarial strikes.

EABO will be critical in the support of sea control and denial missions, however, certain deficiencies highlight the necessity for a joint approach that must fall under a centralized defensive command. EABO's Marine Air Defense Integrated System (MADIS) is well-suited for low-altitude air defense; it incorporates mobile turret-launched stinger missiles and electronic warfare systems intended to target UAVs, low-altitude high-speed aircraft, and helicopters. A critical vulnerability: EABO lacks vital assets for defending airspaces at medium to high-altitudes. Certain Chinese aircraft, such as the Wing Loong drone, and some of their older aircraft, such as the H-6 bomber, pose significant threats to Marines on the ground. They can "loiter" for extended periods of time at altitudes greater than 20,000 feet above islands believed to be sustaining Marines, making Marine operations highly vulnerable to surveillance as well as aerial strikes. The Japanese heavy cruisers and battleships that spearheaded the Sho-1 defense, threatened the American surface ships in the Leyte Gulf; however, the Japanese force's lack of air defense capabilities and the failure of its land-based units to compensate for this deficiency, constituted the Japanese Achilles heel. Likewise, while the Marine Littoral Regiments boast assets that present substantial dangers to enemy ships and represent a potent extension of

the Navy, without the presence of sufficient assets to defend high-altitude airspaces these capabilities can be mitigated by enemy air power. A conflict in the Pacific will be inherently maritime. This demands a command structure whereby Army and Air Force assets become subservient to the maritime tri-service's needs such that these assets can be employed in order to supplement or reinforce any gaps in Navy and Marine Corps capabilities. From a material asset standpoint, joint service cooperation is important for augmenting the missiles, aircraft, and sensors that a particular service's strategy can bring to the fight. This, of course, will help that service to better execute their original missions. This structure, however, will also be invaluable for establishing a "joint single battle concept". A centralized services command will allow the joint services to learn how to best utilize their assets concurrently in order to optimize warfighting efforts.

The Battle of Leyte Gulf represented one of the United States' greatest displays, and Japan's last display, of naval power and established that forces must work in tandem, not against each other, with clear over arching mission objectives in order to achieve combat success. As we look towards the future, the lessons of Leyte Gulf remain as relevant today as they had been in 1944. Only by embracing a unified command structure, defining non-conflicting objectives, and fostering joint service linkages, can we hope to achieve the level of optimized operations necessary for success in a modern Pacific campaign.

*Note: MIDN Briand, from Westport, CT, is an Aerospace Engineering major and currently serves as the Battalion Supply Officer and Squad Leader.*

# *Back at the Battalion*

## Welcome Class of 2027!

<b>Jaelin Baylon</b>	<b>Faith Serna</b>
<b>Ratree Bhuiyan</b>	<b>Jared Tam</b>
<b>Jack Breen</b>	<b>Hailey Tien</b>
<b>Nicholas De Fina</b>	<b>Ryan Tran</b>
<b>Shrinivas Deolalikar</b>	<b>Ranier Velasco</b>
<b>Ritwik Ganguly</b>	<b>Rebecca Wyman</b>
<b>Noah Heitman</b>	<b>Jerry Xie</b>
<b>Cian McKelvey</b>	<b>Joshua Yi</b>
<b>Brendan Miller</b>	<b>Scott Richmond (OC)</b>
<b>Adomas Stankus</b>	<b>Samantha Coraccio (MECEP)</b>



## Freshmen Survey

*We asked the 4th Class Midshipmen what was the easiest (E) and hardest (H) part of joining the battalion. Here's what they said:*

**Shrinivas Deolalikare:** E- Interacting with all the upperclassmen. They are incredibly kind and willing to help us with matters relating to school and personal life.

H - Balancing time with PT, study hours, non-NROTC activities and club sports has been the hardest part.

**Jared Tam:** E- Meeting the MIDNs. The MIDNs I have met in the battalion are all great people.

H- Balancing ROTC and being a normal college student. I have found the balance between them now.

**Ratree Bhuiyan:** E- Meeting other MIDNs who have similar goals as I do and making new friends.

H- Presenting a current events brief in front of the entire battalion.

**Colin Scott:** E- Finding mentors and helpful upperclassmen.

H - Balancing school life with NROTC life.

**Brendan Miller:** E - Learning what is expected of us and working towards our goals.

H - Having to work with a new schedule along with college classes.

**Adomas Stankus:** E - I had support and people that I could go to if I needed any help.

H - The extra work on top of my major. While manageable, it has been difficult to balance the workload.

**Samantha Coraccio:** E- The integration with the platoons

H - Getting used to the student command structure

**Rebecca Wyman:** E - The people are amazing and welcoming.

H - Getting all the customs and courtesy down properly as well as uniform expectations

**Hailey Tien:** E - PT

H - Completing all the small tasks and fitting it into my schedule

**Nicholas DeFina:** E- How open the OIs have been to new/prospective students

H - Swimming

**Faith Serna:** E - Being able to connect and build my knowledge. It has been easy to gain new knowledge

H - Understanding how this battalion works.

**Noah Heitman:** E - The unit has been incredibly positive and welcoming. The MIDNs and Officers have been a great resource for answering any questions I may have and really helped me integrate well into the unit.

H - Adjusting to the large time commitment that NROTC requires. I have already received lots of help and encouragement from many upperclassmen which has been extremely helpful in the process.

**Ritwik Ganguly:** E - Meeting the upperclassmen and making friends, feeling like part of the battalion.

H - The Naval Science Class

**John Breen:** E- How nice and welcoming the members of the unit have been.

H - Staying up to date on all the moving parts such as forms that need to be filled out and other things required of me. However, I've been trying to stay on top of my Slack notifications more and it has really been helping with this.

**Wyatt Morris:** E - Getting to know everyone and all the MIDNs.

H - Getting adjusted to college life and the culture change.

**Jerry Xie:** E - The welcoming upperclassmen; all are willing to help whether it be NROTC activity or not. I don't ever feel like I am mistreated by an upperclassmen because they have been here longer and they are true mentors.

H- Adjusting to balancing my academic load with unit activities.

**Rainer Velasco:** E - Meeting new MIDNs has been the easiest part. The set environment made it possible to build relationships.

H - Creating new schedules.

**Cian McKelvey:** E- Feeling welcomed. Moving to LA was both a big step out of my comfort zone and an enormous change of scenery. The battalion provided me an abundance of mentors and an instant group of friends.

H - Balancing NROTC and my social life outside of the battalion.

**Joshua Yi:** E - Everyone was so welcoming. It made it easier to integrate with the unit.

H - The first few weeks were hard trying to balance school and NROTC commitments.

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***What about you? What was the easiest and hardest part of joining the Trojan Battalion?***  
***Send comments to [nrotc.log.editor@gmail.com](mailto:nrotc.log.editor@gmail.com)***

## *Alumni League Scholarships for the Fall Semester 2023*

The Fall USC NROTC Alumni Scholarship recipients have been selected by the Scholarship Operating Committee. A total of \$20,000 is provided yearly - five \$2,000 scholarships given in the Fall and Spring semesters provided by generous contributions by NROTC Alumni League members to the Scholarship Endowment Fund. Once again the group of midshipmen applying for these scholarships are all deserving and make the selections very challenging.

*This Fall semester's recipients are:*

**MIDN 2/C Hunter Brophy** is a Navy Option majoring in Physical Science. He currently acts as the Navy Field Exercise planner for battalion activities such as celestial navigation and firefighting. He is assisting the current Athletics Officers in sharing workouts for the battalion PT. He is a member of the executive board for the Underwater Torpedo League and plans to get involved in the Joint Assembly for Military - Associated Students. He is currently training for SEAL Officer Assessment and Selection and is one of only a handful of midshipmen in the nation to be selected for SEAL screening. He will use the scholarship money for food, housing and training gear required to attain his Navy career goals.

**MIDN 1/C Anne Whelan** is a Navy Option majoring in Physics/ Computer Science. She is currently Training Platoon's Athletics Officer. Her campus activities include being a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority from spring 2021-fall 2022 and the Surf Club from fall 2022- spring 2022. She is currently working part time at USC Price School of Public Policy and has interned for Northrup Grumman during the summer of 2022. She was forced to take out student loans last year in an effort to cover housing expenses and had to work a part time job while taking 19 challenging units.

**MIDN 2/C Thomas Salva** is a Marine Option majoring in Human Security and Geospatial Intelligence. He is currently the Drill Team commander (oversees the Color Guard Commander) and has already completed OCS ( a year early) over the summer of

2023. He is currently the Vice President of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, Chapter Minister for Greek IV Joint Education Program and is working part time at Price School of Public Policy. He has been accepted into The Alumni League Glider Program and is a member of Make-A-Wish Foundation Club and the Underwater Torpedo League. He will use the money to help ease the burden on his mother who is now a single mother with a family of eight.

**MIDN 1/C Daniel Parker** is a Marine Option with a major in International Relations-Global Economy. He currently serves as Officer-In-Charge for Marine breakout labs. In past years he has served as squad leader and OIC of "Blood Madness", (which is the basketball equivalent to the USC/UCLA football Blood Bowl, only now expanded to include trivia, video games, tug of war, etc). He is a member of USC Republicans, Turning Point USA, Trojans for Life, Brazilian Jui-Jitsu, Wrestling and Rugby Clubs. He will use the scholarship for food and housing expenses. In the past he was able to budget enough money between part time jobs in the summer and a university scholarship to pay for these expenses. This past summer he was unable to work his part time summer job while attending Marine OCS and in addition the university scholarship was reduced by \$1,000.

**MIDN 1/C Kelvin Cao** is a Navy Option majoring in Electrical Engineering. He is currently Platoon Commander of Communications for the battalion. The previous semester he was Squad Leader in charge of lab planning. He is currently attempting to join SparkSC - an entrepreneurship club and GIS which is an investment club. He also works with USC Football on game days and assists with customer service. His NROTC Scholarship transfer to USC from San Diego State was only allowed by the Navy if the dollar amount stayed the same or less. Needless to say the tuition cost differential between the two schools is a major burden for him and his parents and the Alumni League scholarship money will certainly help out.

*Congratulations to this semester's recipients!*

# REUNIONS!

## Class of 1983 Homecoming Reunion

The class of 1983 held their 40th reunion during Homecoming Weekend. Unfortunately, only 7 of their 30+ classmates were able to attend, but a good time was had by all. The 7 attendees were Jim Griffin, Cindy Pludow Sugimoto, Dave Virga, Terry Kelly, John Quigley, Rich LaRue, and Mark Woodall. They were joined by: 3 of Cindy's friends from the dorms, Jim's fiancé Suzanne, Dave Virga's wife Liz, Mark Woodall's wife Nikki, and two of Rich LaRue's daughters, Amy and Angela.

They had their pregame tailgate on campus, courtesy of former NROTC classmate, George Will, who provided a festive atmosphere with BBQ set up and music.

One thing that made this reunion extra special was the presence of Rich LaRue's daughters, Angela and Amy. Their mother, Nancy Tefft '83 was also one of us. She and Rich met in the Trojan Battalion and both commissioned into the Marine Corps. Unfortunately, Nancy passed away when the girls were young. Angela and Amy wanted to meet some of Nancy's college friends and hear stories about their mom. Angela is a Registered Nurse and Amy followed her mother's footsteps and attended USC, played in the Trojan Marching Band and was commissioned in the Marine Corps. They both enjoyed hearing a few stories about their mom in college.

Dave Virga and Amy LaRue, former bandies, also performed with the Alum Band at the homecoming game.



Class of '83 left to right: Jim Griffin, John Quigley, Rich LaRue, Cindy Sugimoto, Terry Kelly, and Dave Virga

## Class of 1979

### Mini Reunion in San Diego

A "mini" 1979 reunion was held in San Diego on October 22nd, a day after the heartbreaking Utah loss. Bob Bennett flew out from North Carolina and Craig Kennedy came from Nebraska to attend the game and then headed to San Diego to spend time and commiserate with fellow classmates in San Diego. Bob Frankel '79 and his wife, Mary, hosted a BBQ at their house. Other attendees were Dave Waran '79 and his wife, Karen, Kevin McNees '79 and Angel Mariano '79.



Class of '79 left to right: Bob Bennett, Dave Waran, Angel Mariano, Kevin McNees, Craig Kennedy, and Bob Frankel

### Attention Alums!

*If you are planning a reunion (full scale or mini's) and would like some assistance - we are here to help!*

*Contact Bob Bennett (robert.m.bennett@outlook.com). Bob is our Alumni League Reunion Resource Coordinator. He can provide information on hotels, vendors, along with suggestions and recommendations to make your reunion a success.*

# DECADES DOINGS

This section of *THE LOG* is to share brief “happenings” or news items with our NROTC Alumni League members. It is organized by decades of your commissioning date for ease in finding info about your 'SC classmates. Submissions can be sent via e-mail to Frances Annarella at: [log\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:log_editor@yahoo.com) or on the return slip along with your annual dues. Please keep it brief and **please PRINT clearly**. Note: If you e-mail us, please include your commissioning year.

## 1940's - 1950's

*Nothing to Report*

## 1960's

**John J. Gobbell '60:** My tenth novel will be released in December 2023: **Danger's Ebb** (A Todd Ingram Novel).

**Paul Alwine '62:** Recently moved to a Senior Retirement Community in Rancho Bernardo (San Diego County). I met one of the residents, who said “Paul Alwine – I’ve been reading about you for years!” I said, “What?” Turns out he is Bob Lange – USC NROTC Class of '66 !!! He has lived here for years – his wife passed away some time ago. He is a retired Marine Col, was a pilot during his career – maybe 30 years. He knew me from LOG articles!!! How bout that!!!

## 1970's

**Mark Buxton '74:** Retired from AT&T in May 2018. Busy with USSV (US Submarine Veterans), Veterans Memorial and Support Foundation, Lions Club and VFW. Just celebrated 42 years of marriage!

## 1980's

**Frances Annarella '81:** Football season was a little disappointing but there's always next year. This year went to Colorado, Notre Dame and Cal. Excited about going to different BIG stadiums (as long as it's early in the season before the snow).

**Brad Kratovil '82:** Surviving the summer '23 heat in Oro Valley, AZ (it's a dry heat. . .very). Was looking forward to coming back for the Utah home game, all was great except the game. My wife Paige (USC class of '85) and I are not sure of what to make of the move to the BIG 10 (or is it 20 now?). Regardless, wherever the Trojans play, we are behind them 100%. Fight On from AZ!

## 1990's - 2020's

*Nothing to Report*



# TAPS



*Farewell and bon voyage to our departed shipmates.*

A donation has been made to the USC NROTC Alumni League Scholarship Endowment in the name of each officer listed below.

Bob Williamson '56	Mar 2016
Clifford L. Laning '59	July 2023
Richard J Blankmeyer '60	Dec 2022

Note: All names are published and donations are made to the Alumni League Scholarship Fund in their honor when their passing is brought to our attention.

## IN MEMORIAM

Dennis William Peterson '62

28 June 1939-19 July 1967

*by CAPT Bob Brockmeier '63*

Dennis Peterson, was born in 1939, in Huntington Park, California. After attending high school and one year at Long Beach State College he was accepted into the NROTC Regular Program, transferring to USC in 1959. He excelled in physical activities, continued with his degree, graduated, and commissioned on 2 November 1962.

He entered flight training with the Navy in Pensacola, Florida receiving his wings on 24 March 1964, and his helicopter aviator number R-7303 and was designated a Naval Aviator. He was assigned to HS-2 (Helicopter anti-submarine Squadron 2) based at Ream Field (NAS or NAAS Imperial Beach). Two Westpac cruises were awaiting the squadron, the first from August 1965 to March 1966. The primary operations were in the Gulf of Tonkin. USS Hornet, CVS-12, was the carrier with CVSG -57 as the Air Group. Most operational flights involved either SSSC (Surface, sub-surface, surveillance missions), or mail drops to the smaller ships. After the cruise, Dennis became a HAC (Helicopter Aircraft Commander), and did an excellent job upon his return.

After several short cruises, USS Hornet and the Air Group commenced another Westpac deployment in March of 1967. SSSC missions were somewhat curtailed but the squadron got involved in SAR (search and rescue) missions many times over North Vietnam. Unfortunately, not all were successful. On that fateful day in July 1967, a mission was dispatched to rescue a downed Air Force Pilot. The enemy had not captured him but had a good idea where he was. Dennis took off from the USS Hornet piloting an SH-3A Sea King helicopter on a search and rescue mission in Ha Nam Province, Vietnam. Several additional AAA batteries were brought in, and Dennis and crew were shot down and all perished. The downed pilot was captured and never returned to the USA.

After the war, Vietnamese Officials returned remains that were associated with the loss of LT Peterson's Sea King, and a joint U.S. and Vietnamese search teams recovered additional remains from excavations of the helicopter crash site. In 2012, modern forensic techniques identified LT Peterson from among remains recovered from the crash site. Arlington National Cemetery held a solemn remembrance on 2 May 2013 for LT Dennis Peterson and his crew : Ensign Donald Frye, Petty officers William Jackson and Donald McGrane. The horse drawn carriage, honor guard and the guests proceeded to the burial site where a moving speech was conducted and the formal ceremony took place. The site is located at 10456, section 60. It is always sad to remember classmates who were an integral part of our college life. Dennis was one of them. He is survived by his 2 daughters, Kirsten and Dennise (who was born 3 weeks after Dennis' loss), and 2 grandsons.



*Left to Right: Lt Dennis Peterson,  
Gravesite of LT Peterson and his crew at  
Arlington National Cemetery,  
Dennis with daughter Kirsten.*



# Natural History Tour of Madagascar

*by CAPT Ann Mathews '77*

During August 2023, I went on a 3+ week natural history tour of Madagascar with my college roommate, along with seven other adventurers. Since its independence from France in 1960, Madagascar has declined from being a prosperous country to becoming one of the poorest countries in the world. Tourism there is slowly making a comeback, with about 400,000 visitors a year to experience the many different things that country has to offer. Our group was led by two Malagasy National Guides, who had to take special courses and training before being certified as National Guides. When we visited various Reserves and National Parks there, we also had local guides who were experts with that particular Reserve or Park.

The island's various topography ranges from highlands to beautiful coastlines, all which support different climate zones that ranged from tropical rainforests, unique spiny forests and arid desert plains. We explored some very different landscapes that included the incredible Tsingy rock tower pinnacles made from red laterite and limestone. We were told to pack for four seasons and they weren't kidding.

Madagascar has some of the highest concentrations of unique plant and animal species not found anywhere on earth, with up to 90% of their wildlife which can only be found there. We saw many different species of lemurs, chameleons, geckos, and insects, and all in the wild, as they have no zoos there. The plant life was amazing to see, which included different species of ancient baobab trees, carnivorous pitcher plants and orchids.

There are about 18 different ethnic groups or tribes in Madagascar, each having a specialized area of expertise to include raising animals or fishing for food, growing all their food staples including rice, potatoes, vegetables and fruit (they are probably best known for their vanilla beans), beautiful wood carvings, handwoven clothing items, hand-crafted wooden instruments, and digging for semi-precious stones.

I thought their food was very good as many restaurants and lodges still cook under the French influence. Our main choices for dinner usually included Zebu, their version of humped-back cattle, free-range chicken and fish. And I thought their potatoes were the best tasting ones I've ever had. However, we were told to not eat salads, fruits or vegetables unless they were cooked or could be peeled since we didn't know if the water they used to wash them with was filtered. And, as in other Third World countries, we could only drink and use bottled water for pretty much everything. But they did have bottled beer, wine and drinks to satisfy our responsible adult drinking habits!

Before their independence from France, their roads were in good condition and they had a passenger train that stopped at various locations. Since then, the roads have greatly deteriorated with not much maintenance done and the passenger train is only used now to move supplies from one part of the island to another. Compared to the US, their roads are in horrible condition with massive numbers of deep potholes, therefore making our travel speeds very slow. Besides the potholes, the roads were narrow with only one lane each way. We shared the roads with many other forms of diesel transportation, including semi-trucks/trailers, which added to the very slow travel speeds.



Overall, I thought this trip was very different and unique compared to other countries I have visited, but it definitely made me appreciate even more all the modern conveniences we have here that include safe running water, electricity, toilets, washers/dryers and paved roads with little to no potholes.

For those who might be interested in visiting Madagascar, I recommend the Bradt Travel Guide for Madagascar, Edition 13.

### *A few pictures from Madagascar*



*Ann Mathews '77 in the **Red Tsingy**, formed from laterite and considered one of the Geological Wonders Unique in the World.*



# USC NROTC Alumni League ASSOCIATE Membership

The USC Naval ROTC Alumni League is an all-volunteer organization of the university whose mission is to provide the Midshipmen of the Trojan Battalion with things such as supplemental scholarships, achievement recognition, an alumni-funded computer lab, and Drill Team funding assistance. We provide mentoring and an “alumni connection” for current Midshipmen when and where possible. **Associate membership is available to families and those interested in the USC NROTC unit**, to provide additional much needed financial contributions. All Associate members receive the semi-annual newsletter - “The LOG” as well as invitations to Alumni League Events.

Family Membership:  
In Support of Midshipman: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anticipated Commissioning Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Membership:  
Affiliation (e.g., Staff, former Midshipman) \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my contribution for the USC NROTC Alumni League and Trojan Midshipmen Battalion:

\$ 25.00 Associate Member Dues Donation for 2023

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional contributions for Special Events (e.g., Drill Team, Computer Lab, etc.)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Extra Donation for the NROTC Alumni League Scholarship Endowment

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (please print in all CAPITAL letters):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return this page in the envelope provided.  
Make checks payable to: **USC NROTC Alumni League**  
Mail to: **Edward Tannenbaum, Treasurer**  
**12812 Bristol Cir**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90049**

# USC NROTC Alumni League **REGULAR** Membership

*All Graduates of the USC NROTC Program are REGULAR members of the Alumni League.  
Please use this form for donations and updates.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Commission Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**Here's my support for the USC NROTC Alumni League and the Trojan Midshipmen Battalion**

**TAX DEDUCTIBLE** (Note: You will receive a donation receipt from the University)

\$ 25.00 Member Dues Donation for 2023

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional contributions for Special Events (e.g., Drill Team, Computer Lab, etc.)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Extra Donation for the NROTC Alumni League Scholarship Endowment

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ] My company will match my gift. Contact your Company HR Dept for form and assistance

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

Please Return this page in the envelope provided.  
Make checks payable to: **USC NROTC Alumni League**  
Mail to: **Edward Tannenbaum, Treasurer, 12812 Bristol Cir., Los Angeles, CA 90049**

[ ] Please update my record

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Commission: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Year & School of Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (please print in CAPITAL letters):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

For **"DECADES DOINGS"** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Commission Year: \_\_\_\_\_

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USC NAVAL ROTC ALUMNI LEAGUE  
Department of Naval Science  
University of Southern California  
3560 Watt Way, PED Room 101  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0654

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## ***ATTENTION ALUMS - READ THIS!***

We've launched **Constant Contact** in October! We will be sending periodic emails and text (for those who have opted in to receive text messages) to update you on Alumni League activities. This is a new way for us to better communicate with you and provide timely information. If you have not received any emails from us, please email us at:

***uscnotcalumni@gmail.com***

Spring Board of Directors meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 7, 2024** at 10:00 a.m. USC campus, room TBD. In the evening, we are planning a happy hour/light dinner near campus and then heading over to the Galen Center for the USC men's basketball game against Arizona State. ***All are welcome*** to the Board meeting and/or the evening get together and basketball game. Please email us at ***uscnotcalumni@gmail.com*** and let us know if you can join us.

BIG changes are coming to our website! Our newly formed Marketing Strategies team hopes to have a new and improved site up and running by the spring! Keep reading your Constant Contact emails for updates.